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PICAYUNE, NEW ORLEANS,

HAITI INVASION PLOT ALLEGED

Plan to Seize Two Islands Told to U.S. Court

MIAMI, Fla. (AP)—An armed force based in the Florida Keys plotted to seize two large islands off the coast of Haiti as a springboard to invading that country, a federal court jury was told Tuesday.

Seizure of the islands of Tortue and Gonave was among alternatives in the alleged battle plan of a force led by six defendants charged with planning a military expedition against Haiti and of exporting arms, the jury was told.

Another alternative, the prosecution said, was to set up a base in Honduras for the projected Haiti invasion through the help of Antonio Imbert Barreras, identified as a Dominican Republic general.

Among the defendants were Rolando Masferrer, a powerful figure in Cuba before Fidel Castro's revolution, the Rev. Jean Baptiste George, a Haitian Roman Catholic priest, and Martin Casey of Miami. They were among 73 battle-clad men arrested last Jan. 2 in the Florida Keys.

Government prosecutors read to the jury of nine men and three women a document they said was seized in a brief case at the time of the arrests.

The sketchy document said 50 men were to land on the islands of Tortue and Gonave with guns and equipment for another 100 men and instructions for preparing landing strips capable of handling two B25 bombers and five or 10 light planes.

Or, the document said, one island would be occupied by the entire force and for a strike at St. Marc or Gonaives, both port cities and march toward Port-Au-Prince, the capital, after bombardment.